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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8166

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 27305

S/CT FOR WHARTON

E.O. 12536: N/A

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SUBJECT: PAKISTAN: 1989 ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT

REF: STATE 363024

¶1. REFTEL REQUESTS INPUT FOR DEPARTMENT'S PREPARATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT. THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE KEYED TO REFTEL'S QUESTIONS.

¶2. SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM: THE GOP IS POLITICALLY OPPOSED TO TERRORISM. IT DOES NOT/NOT SUPPORT, SPONSOR OR TOLERATE TERRORIST GROUPS, TACTICS, OR METHODS. IT HAS NOT/NOT GIVEN ANY SUPPORT PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY TO A TERRORIST-SUPPORTING COUNTRY ON A TERRORISM ISSUE. INDIA HAS PERIODICALLY CHARGED PAKISTAN WITH SUPPORTING LOCAL TERRORISTS IN THE INDIAN PUNJAB AND KASHMIR WITH SANCTUARIES AND TRAINING CAMPS ON THIS SIDE OF THE BORDER. THE GOP DENIES THESE ACCUSATIONS. HARD EVIDENCE THAT MIGHT BACK UP INDIA'S CHARGES IS LACKING.

¶3. 1989 COURT PROSECUTIONS: THERE HAVE NOT BEEN ANY SIGNIFICANT COURT PROSECUTIONS OF TERRORIST CASES THIS YEAR. THE ANO TERRORISTS CONVICTED OF THE 1986 PAN AM HIJACKING IN KARACHI REMAIN IN PRISON. THEIR APPEALS ARE STILL PENDING IN THE COURTS.

¶4. MAJOR COUNTERTERRORIST EFFORTS IN 1989: THE GOP HAS NOT UNDERTAKEN ANY NEW MAJOR POLICY EFFORTS ON COUNTERTERRORISM IN 1989. (THE GOP HAS CREATED THE PARAMILITARY "SINDH FORCE" TO HELP DEAL WITH LAW-AND-ORDER DIFFICULTIES IN SINDH, BUT THE PROBLEM IS ETHNIC COMMUNAL VIOLENCE, RATHER THAN TERRORIST ACTIVITY.) THE GOP HAS ATTEMPTED ON A CONTINUING BASIS TO ENHANCE ITS ANTITERRORIST AND LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES. PAKISTAN PARTICIPATES IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S ANTI-TERRORISM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. THREE TRAINING COURSES -- EACH WITH ABOUT THIRTY PAKISTANI PARTICIPANTS -- HAVE BEEN HELD THIS YEAR IN CRISIS MANAGEMENT, AIRPORT SECURITY, AND DEALING WITH EXPLOSIVES INCIDENTS.

¶5. GOVERNMENT RESPONSES ON TERRORISM AFFECTING AMERICAN CITIZENS AND FACILITIES: THERE WERE NO TERRORIST INCIDENTS AFFECTING AMERICAN CITIZENS OR FACILITIES IN 1989. THE ONE ATTACK, ON THE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER IN ISLAMABAD ON FEBRUARY 12, IS PROPERLY CLASSIFIED AS MOB VIOLENCE RATHER THAN A TERRORIST INCIDENT. LOCAL POLICE SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED THE CENTER, ALTHOUGH SIX PEOPLE IN THE CROWD (NO AMERICANS) DIED FROM POLICE BULLETS AND THE BUILDING SUFFERED CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE.

OAKLEY